

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

For Release August 16, 1968

Carroll 343-5634

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AUCTION LONGHORNS IN OKLAHOMA AND NEBRASKA

Texas longhorns, living symbols of the Old West, will be auctioned at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, near Cache, Okla., on September 19, and at Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebr., on October 22, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today.

The sales of 100 longhorns at Wichita Mountains and 45 at Fort Niobrara will reduce herds to range capacities. Mature animals and calves will be sold.

The longhorn ancestry is traced to fighting bulls of Spain; natural selection and tough terrain molded the animal into a distinct breed, the oldest breed of cattle in North America. Longhorns adapted to the rugged Southwestern environment and contributed significantly to the economic development of post-Civil War Texas.

They became almost extinct after being replaced as beef producers by other breeds about 1900. The herd at Wichita Mountains was established by the Bureau in 1927. In 1936, six calves were moved to Fort Niobrara to start another herd.

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